

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Friday, April 23, 2010

Bangs Community Center, Lower Meeting Room

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack (departed 5:55), Rob Crowner (departed 6:23), Mary Streeter, Carol Gray, Harry Brooks; absent: Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis.

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:44pm.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: Carol reports that she completed filming the bus tour with ACTV and that it will soon be ready to air.

Mary reports that she assisted town staff in assembling the second packet after receiving a last-minute request to do so earlier this week.

Harry moves, Nonny seconds, and the committee approves by a vote of 5-0 with one abstention the minutes of April 19 as amended.

3. Info forum: Harry reports that the gas station has granted permission to use its lot for overflow parking, and if necessary he will shuttle attendees from another lot across the street. Harry confirms that the forum will be broadcast live and that all preparations have been made by ACTV.

4. Electronic voting: Peggy reports that the League of Women Voters will not have a first edition of "They Represent You" ready for the first night of Town Meeting as is customary because the Town Clerk will not be posting the official list of Town Meeting members until it is finalized, which is expected to be right before Town Meeting commences. Some new members elected by write-in need to accept in writing before their election can be certified. The League is also concerned that a growing percentage of members are being listed without a phone number. The consensus of the committee is that the full list of those receiving votes, including write-ins, should be a matter of public record as soon as feasible, even if the official results of the election are not yet validated. Carol will research the law pertaining to this issue before TMCC pursues the matter further. Harry notes that he is a member of the board of registrars.

Peggy reports on the research into electronic voting that she has done. No other Massachusetts community uses electronic voting, but there is an article on the Town of Wayland's warrant this Spring. There has been considerable debate about it in Wayland and plenty of information available on the Web, which Peggy recommends committee members look at. Additionally, electronic voting has been discussed at the Massachusetts Moderators Association.

Carol states that it is the committee's role to look into matters such as electronic voting and the committee should let the Moderator know that it intends to do so and would like to work with him on it. Town Meeting members should be surveyed, but first the committee should provide adequate information, including price, which is not yet known. The committee agrees that it should organize its own thoughts on the matter before meeting with the Moderator. The next meeting, currently scheduled for May 4, will be dedicated exclusively to the following agenda:

- a. What information is needed?
- b. What response should a survey seek and when should it be administered?
- c. What concerns should be raised and considered before moving forward?

5. Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted in part,
Rob Crowner

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of meeting of April 19, 2010
3. warrant review and bus tour evaluation summaries